TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THIRD COUNCIL.

FIRST SESSION, 1103.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

Saturday, the 4th August, 1928.

The Council re-assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty of the Clock, with Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar B. A. B. L., Deputy President, in the Chair.

The following members were absent :—1. Mr. L. A. Lampard. 2. Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai and 3. Mr. J. Stephenson.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Road connecting Chirayinkil-Attingal road with the Quilon-Trivandrum road.

8. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken on the representations made both in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council, for opening a cart-road from the third mile of the Chirayinkil-Attingal road to the Quilon-Trivandrum road?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): An estimate has been sanctioned for the road, and a provision to start the work has also been made in the draft Budget for 1104.

The Killiar Bridge.

9. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) why and on what date the Killiar bridge gave way;

(*b*) when the last repairs were completed and at what cost;

(*c*) (i) whether, after the last repairs, any report has been submitted to the Chief Engineer or to the Government that the road was in good order and safe for use by the public; and

(ii) if so, the name of the officer who submitted the report and the date on which the report was received;

(*d*) the name of the officer who was in direct and immediate supervision of the repairs; and

(*e*) whether they propose to take any disciplinary action against the officer or officers concerned?

G. P. T. 43. 300. 2-2-104.
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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The bridge gave way on the 17th April 1928. The reason for its collapse was the over-stressing of a joint in the girder due to several contributory causes the chief of which was the excessive vibrations set up by an eight-seater bus entering upon the bridge when a steam roller had already passed on to the bridge.

(*b*) The last repairs which were only of a petty nature were carried out in March 1928 at an estimated cost of Rs. 630.

(*c*) (i) The answer is in the negative.

(ii) In view of the answer given to (*c*) (i), this does not arise.

(*d*) Mr. K. T. Tirumal Rao, Section Officer.

(*e*) In view of what is stated in reply to part (*b*) that the repairs were only of a petty nature consisting of replacement of rotton hand-rails and planks which were not in any way connected with the cause of the failure of the bridge, this question does not arise.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is it because of the excessive vibration caused by the eight-seater that the bridge gave way?

MR T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): With reference to which part of the question, please?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Part (*a*).

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer says that. The bridge collapsed due to several causes the chief of which was the excessive vibration set up by the eight-seater.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know what were the other reasons which contributed to the fall of the bridge?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer has sent a long technical report giving the several reasons which contributed to this accident.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Am I to understand that the vibration which was caused by the single eight-seater on that particular day was so much as to break the bridge?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That was the last straw on the camel's back.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether there were any other reasons?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, there were other reasons also.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether anybody has ascertained the speed at which the eight-seater was being driven over the bridge?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No, it was not possible to know it exactly since no departmental officer was present then.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Was any departmental enquiry made?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, the Police, the Magistracy and the Public Works Department enquired into the matter.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : And nobody was aware of the speed ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag Chief Secretary to Government*) : The information is that the speed was more than four miles, the allowed speed.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Was any action taken against the driver ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I have no information.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : With reference to part (*c*) (1) of the question may I know whether there is any custom or precedent in the Public Works Department that after repairs are made reports have to be submitted with regard to the safety of the public way repaired ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : This was only a petty repair, and there would have been a report that the work has been done.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : In view of the fact that the repairs conducted were with regard to the Killi bridge over which enormous traffic has to pass regularly every day, may I know whether there is any information with the P. W. D. as to the safety of the bridge after repairs ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : The opinion of the P. W. D. in this case is that if only the roller had gone by itself, without the eight-seater overtaking it, the roller could have passed the bridge without any accident since it could have passed along the middle of the bridge and need not have taken a side.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether, when the repairs were made, the strength of the girder was ascertained ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : The girder was strong enough to bear the weight of the roller. The bridge gave way because extra load was put on the bridge and the roller itself was on the wrong side of the bridge.

MR. K.P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is there any practice that the superior officer must supervise the work ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : This is a petty repair.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Am I to understand that the whole repair was conducted under the sole responsibility of the particular Section Officer ?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The cost of the repair is only Rs. 600 and odd. The work would have had the supervision which the Code requires.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Am I to understand that no other officer had anything to do with this repair and that the whole repair was conducted on the sole responsibility of the Section Officer?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I am unable to say whether under the rules such a work which costs only Rs. 600 and odd requires the supervision of the Sub-Division Officer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether in this particular matter the Executive Engineer or the Sub-Division Officer supervised the work?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That will have to be ascertained.

Bridges across the Chirayinkil Canal.

10. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the ruinous state of the two foot-bridges across the Chirayinkil canal in the Chirayinkil taluk;

(*b*) whether any representations have been received by them for the restoration of these bridges; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken by them in the matter?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) An estimate has been sanctioned for constructing a foot-bridge on the 16th mile of the Trivandrum-Shoranur canal. It is reported that the other bridge on the 17th mile is not at present necessary.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to part (*c*) of the answer may I know whether a report has been called for from the P. W. D. authorities in the locality to the effect that the restoration of that bridge was unnecessary?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is based on the Chief Engineer's report. I am unable to say whether the Chief Engineer had the benefit of the local officer's investigation on the spot.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the authority on which the answer is based?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The highest authority in the Public Works Department the Chief

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